

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 20, 2008

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 20: Consideration of resolution authorizing an augmentation to SMM-0754 for Project Planning and Design Services.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing an augmentation of SMM-0754 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority using Proposition 84 funds for project planning and design services in the coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay including Calleguas Creek and the Upper Los Angeles River in the amount of \$100,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code and Sections 33204(c), 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), 75060 (d)(1), and 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application for a \$100,000 augmentation to the \$650,000 Proposition 84 Project Planning and Design grant (SMM-0754). The Conservancy last augmented this grant in September 2007. The grant period runs through June 2009 and needs to be extended in any case. The application budget calls for \$65,000 to be spent in the Upper Los Angeles River and \$35,000 in coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay. An expenditure plan for each of these geographic areas is included in the MRCA application.

The staff reports from the September 2007 Conservancy meeting are attached to provide detailed background on the MRCA's use of Project Planning and Design grant funds from the Conservancy in general and specifically from Proposition 84 funds.

The MRCA cover letter from the Vice Chairperson states that it is anticipated that the current grant will be exhausted by the end of calendar year 2009. It further states that because of the uncertainties with the State budget that it would be prudent to assure that key elements of the MRCA legal, design services, and natural resources and planning programs have a level of funding certainty through the first quarter of 2010. A delayed FY 2009-2010 State budget could potentially require trimming staff and halting work on projects as part of prudent management. The request is to authorize the minimum amount of additional planning funds to prevent any unnecessary delays and staff reductions detrimental to the implementation of projects on the

approved project list. The \$100,000 requested augmentation would assure that continuity into the second quarter of 2010.

Some time prior to the second quarter of 2010, it is expected that the MRCA would request an augmentation to carry an unknown level of project planning and design through FY 2010-2011. Most tasks performed by the MRCA staff under this grant deliver projects on the approved project list with no capital funding from Proposition 84. More specifically land is obtained at no public cost or using non-Proposition 84 funding. Many improvement projects worked on also have no Proposition 84 capital funding involved.

The approved project lists for the Upper Los Angeles River and Coastal Watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay are attached.